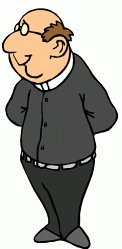
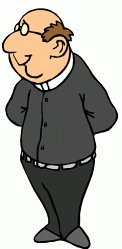
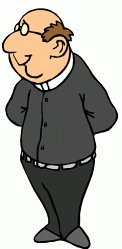
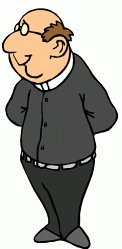
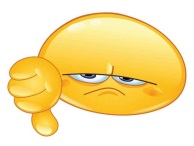
FISH CHEEKS

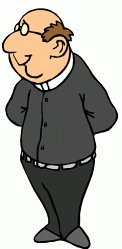
[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjurOuR6PDOAhXHXB4KHR0TB1MQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.clipartkid.com%2Fchinese-girl-cartoon-cliparts%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNFBtU_R0fywBvCtEP2ZE47Uzjfy-w&ust=1472910161000138)I fell in love when I was 14. He was the minister’s[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjZ5NPA6PDOAhWBlB4KHWjKDjgQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hasslefreeclipart.com%2Fcart_people%2Fminister.html&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNHw6OCdkTbcggS5PDRXcgXa9DGN2A&ust=1472910272676571) son. The boy was not Chinese. The boy was in love with was named Robert[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwifl5TP5_DOAhXMsB4KHXxbASEQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.canstockphoto.com%2Fcartoon-boy-in-winter-clothes-17746277.html&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNGzZpL5BdJo__SXoWVgHxEBQUUUQA&ust=1472910032248780). His father was a minister[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjZ5NPA6PDOAhWBlB4KHWjKDjgQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hasslefreeclipart.com%2Fcart_people%2Fminister.html&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNHw6OCdkTbcggS5PDRXcgXa9DGN2A&ust=1472910272676571).

It was Christmas Eve[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiR-9qS5vDOAhVMGR4KHT9CDpIQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.clipartkid.com%2Fgoogle-christmas-tree-cliparts%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNEklEPiM9Bq0XpJVXy-Fn5xuVMm1g&ust=1472909582002017), and I cried. I[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjurOuR6PDOAhXHXB4KHR0TB1MQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.clipartkid.com%2Fchinese-girl-cartoon-cliparts%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNFBtU_R0fywBvCtEP2ZE47Uzjfy-w&ust=1472910161000138) was embarrassed[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwi2mumI5_DOAhUFax4KHYYRCh0QjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Femojipedia.org%2Fflushed-face%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNGCEmTcMr_RFLk2zTBCIeHfnhwDVg&ust=1472909885998616). We were having the minister[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjZ5NPA6PDOAhWBlB4KHWjKDjgQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hasslefreeclipart.com%2Fcart_people%2Fminister.html&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNHw6OCdkTbcggS5PDRXcgXa9DGN2A&ust=1472910272676571) and his family to our house. I [](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjurOuR6PDOAhXHXB4KHR0TB1MQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.clipartkid.com%2Fchinese-girl-cartoon-cliparts%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNFBtU_R0fywBvCtEP2ZE47Uzjfy-w&ust=1472910161000138)did not know how they would feel about my family. We ate Chinese food not turkey. We were loud and noisy.

Mother was cooking shrimp[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwikk6Ox5vDOAhWMpR4KHSICDBkQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.allthingsclipart.com%2F04%2Fshrimp.clipart.htm&psig=AFQjCNGeG2lO1FNBxf6ZfstdV_okPeIJDA&ust=1472909707018740). She was cooking fish[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwizyKnM5vDOAhWQMx4KHarWDvwQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.clipartkid.com%2Ffish-on-plate-cliparts%2F&psig=AFQjCNFwopYeYvN-KxoRN27Ngi1X6nG8Eg&ust=1472909762065921). She had mushrooms [](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwihoMbf5vDOAhWHqR4KHY3FAbMQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fclipartsign.com%2F581%2Fmushroom-clip-art%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNEhGua4f7LWm8zMdsL9tgTyDtDGMw&ust=1472909803223769)in a bowl of water. She had a plate of squid which looked like bike tires[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiU163y5vDOAhVE2B4KHdEPDHcQjRwIBw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dreamstime.com%2Fillustration%2Ftire.html&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNFCRdbt3fS6rJbYz4v9TiqzpqrEwg&ust=1472909839924893).

The minister[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjZ5NPA6PDOAhWBlB4KHWjKDjgQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hasslefreeclipart.com%2Fcart_people%2Fminister.html&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNHw6OCdkTbcggS5PDRXcgXa9DGN2A&ust=1472910272676571) and his family came to my house. They rang the bell. I saw Robert[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwifl5TP5_DOAhXMsB4KHXxbASEQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.canstockphoto.com%2Fcartoon-boy-in-winter-clothes-17746277.html&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNGzZpL5BdJo__SXoWVgHxEBQUUUQA&ust=1472910032248780). He did not say “hi.”

I [](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjurOuR6PDOAhXHXB4KHR0TB1MQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.clipartkid.com%2Fchinese-girl-cartoon-cliparts%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNFBtU_R0fywBvCtEP2ZE47Uzjfy-w&ust=1472910161000138)became sad[](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiGz_Kk5_DOAhWKsh4KHYwmCIgQjRwIBw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.pinterest.com%2Fpin%2F462885667927270027%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNG2XZJqNmSL71Iuw48DuCaFdmOSwg&ust=1472909923605184) and upset[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwj9vou25_DOAhUHlx4KHW-QAi8QjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Ftribune.com.pk%2Fstory%2F850927%2Ffacebooks-feeling-fat-emoji-creates-a-stir%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNGXoO_e5l4DnP16Db0-Vra7kNShGQ&ust=1472909981326488). Robert[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwifl5TP5_DOAhXMsB4KHXxbASEQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.canstockphoto.com%2Fcartoon-boy-in-winter-clothes-17746277.html&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNGzZpL5BdJo__SXoWVgHxEBQUUUQA&ust=1472910032248780) did not like the food my mother made. Father poked the meat of the fish[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwizyKnM5vDOAhWQMx4KHarWDvwQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.clipartkid.com%2Ffish-on-plate-cliparts%2F&psig=AFQjCNFwopYeYvN-KxoRN27Ngi1X6nG8Eg&ust=1472909762065921) near the eye. He said, “Amy[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjurOuR6PDOAhXHXB4KHR0TB1MQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.clipartkid.com%2Fchinese-girl-cartoon-cliparts%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNFBtU_R0fywBvCtEP2ZE47Uzjfy-w&ust=1472910161000138), this is your favorite part.” I felt embarrassed[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwi2mumI5_DOAhUFax4KHYYRCh0QjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Femojipedia.org%2Fflushed-face%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNGCEmTcMr_RFLk2zTBCIeHfnhwDVg&ust=1472909885998616).

At the end of the meal, my dad burped[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiV7cbv5_DOAhXGGh4KHdynBJoQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.canstockphoto.com%2Fvector-clipart%2Fburp.html&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNFpfAlHma6NRF6v__7wKvOVr7OqUQ&ust=1472910097852394). He told them it was Chinese custom to burp [](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiV7cbv5_DOAhXGGh4KHdynBJoQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.canstockphoto.com%2Fvector-clipart%2Fburp.html&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNFpfAlHma6NRF6v__7wKvOVr7OqUQ&ust=1472910097852394) after your meal. The minister[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjZ5NPA6PDOAhWBlB4KHWjKDjgQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.hasslefreeclipart.com%2Fcart_people%2Fminister.html&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNHw6OCdkTbcggS5PDRXcgXa9DGN2A&ust=1472910272676571) tried to burp[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiV7cbv5_DOAhXGGh4KHdynBJoQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.canstockphoto.com%2Fvector-clipart%2Fburp.html&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNFpfAlHma6NRF6v__7wKvOVr7OqUQ&ust=1472910097852394). He was trying to show respect.

Mother spoke to me. She told me that even though I[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjurOuR6PDOAhXHXB4KHR0TB1MQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.clipartkid.com%2Fchinese-girl-cartoon-cliparts%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNFBtU_R0fywBvCtEP2ZE47Uzjfy-w&ust=1472910161000138) wanted to be an American girl, I was Chinese. She told me to be proud[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwj2n-vk6PDOAhVCLB4KHSMpB3QQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.canstockphoto.com%2Fillustration%2Fproud.html&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNG0wSpB7LoeF3_8YiIWJN58KXITrw&ust=1472910342251747). It was ok to be different.

It was not until many years later that I[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjurOuR6PDOAhXHXB4KHR0TB1MQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.clipartkid.com%2Fchinese-girl-cartoon-cliparts%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNFBtU_R0fywBvCtEP2ZE47Uzjfy-w&ust=1472910161000138) understood what my mother was telling me. All the foods that Christmas Eve [](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiR-9qS5vDOAhVMGR4KHT9CDpIQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.clipartkid.com%2Fgoogle-christmas-tree-cliparts%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNEklEPiM9Bq0XpJVXy-Fn5xuVMm1g&ust=1472909582002017)were all my favorite foods. My mother had tried to make the dinner very special for me[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjurOuR6PDOAhXHXB4KHR0TB1MQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.clipartkid.com%2Fchinese-girl-cartoon-cliparts%2F&bvm=bv.131669213,d.dmo&psig=AFQjCNFBtU_R0fywBvCtEP2ZE47Uzjfy-w&ust=1472910161000138).